

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants again thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-27.

As a second preliminary matter, Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Büchel (U.S. 6,425,354). Claim 28 has been cancelled without prejudice herein, rendering the rejection with respect to this claim now moot

Because the only amendment submitted herein is the cancellation of rejected claim 28, Applicants submit that this amendment is merely formal in nature, raises no new issues requiring further search or consideration by the Examiner, and is therefore appropriate and necessary for entry after final rejection.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 1-27, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution. Contact may alternatively be made with Lisa Soltis, the principal attorney of record, at (847)724-7500. All correspondence should be directed to Ms. Soltis.

Respectfully submitted,

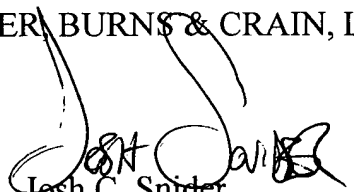
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

Customer No. 24978

March 21, 2005

300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 360-0080
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315

By


Josh C. Snider
Registration No. 47,954

P:\DOCS\0901\67551\769385.DOC